the Government to bring any Textiles Job Guarantee Scheme to help rural families below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in export of cotton clothes

† 2566. SHRI BANWARILAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the export of cotton clothes from the country due to increasing competition in this field; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the steps being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E. V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. As per trade data of Department of Commerce, it may be seen that exports of readymade garment cotton including accessories by India was US$ 4789.66 million during April, 2003-March, 2004, US$ 5043.92 million during April, 2004 to March, 2005 and US$ 6347.92 million during April, 2005 to March, 2006, which indicates that there is no decline in export of cotton registering growth in exports of cotton clothes.

(b) Question does not arise. However, Government has been taking continuous measures to further boost the export of textiles including cotton clothes. Some of the important initiatives taken in this regard are as follows:—

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iv) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernization of ginning and pressing sector.

(v) A new Scheme namely "Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks" has been formulated by merging "Scheme for Apparel Parks for Exports" and "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" in order to expand the production base of textile and garment sector. The Scheme envisages 25 Textile Parks of international standard at potential growth centres of India by 2007-08.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given an option, of excise exemption.

(vii) The import of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at a concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(viii) Duty-free imports of 21 items of trimmings and embellishment items are allowed to the garment exporters, upto 3% of their actual export performance during the previous year.

(ix) For the speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced, *w.e.f.* 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(x) The National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its seven branches, and the Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet the skilled manpower requirements of the textile industry, especially apparel, in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(xi) Facilities like eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get garments/textiles pre-tested so that they conform to the requirements of the importing countries.